

Also, the polymers according to the present invention must be water-soluble or water-dispersible when used in pharmaceutical dosage form, because otherwise the dosage forms would not release the active ingredient.

Dragner et al. cites hydroxy alkyl acrylates as suitable monomers (column 2, lines 55-56) but does not mention the above-indicated limitation as the minimum amount of a hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate in the monomer mixture. According to the examples, methyl methacrylate and butyl acrylate are used as monomers. The resulting polymers are used as binders for nonwoven fabrics for roofing mats, filter media, fiberglass or insulation (column 4, lines 37-42). It is clear from the disclosed fields of application that the polymers of Dragner et al. are not intended to be water-soluble or water-dispersible. A water-soluble or water-dispersible roof mat, for example, would be particularly undesirable during a rain fall.

Furthermore, Dragner et al. contains no suggestion or motivation to use the specifically claimed amount of hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate or that use of such an amount of hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate would render water-soluble or water-dispersible polymers. Also, the technical field of Dragner et al., which relates to surfactantless non-formaldehyde binder emulsions for nonwoven fabrics (column 1, lines 7-8), is non-analogous to that of the present invention, which relates to water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers of hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylates and their use in pharmaceutical dosage forms (specification page 1, lines 7-11). Applicants urge that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to a reference such as Dragner et al. when seeking a water-soluble or water-dispersible coating agent, binder etc. for use in

ANGEL et al., Ser. No. 09/964,796

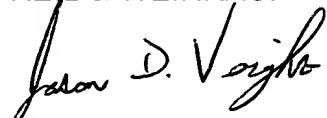
pharmaceutical dosage forms.

Therefore, Dragner et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

Applicants would also like to point out that Goldberg et al. (US 3,203,918) does not disclose polymers where vinylic monomers are copolymerized in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol. Goldberg et al. discloses linear random copolymers obtained by polymerizing vinylacetate, hydroxyalkyl acrylate and optionally crotonic acid monomers, in which after polymerization the acetate group is subsequently alcoholized to give a vinyl alcohol moiety (see column 2, lines 52-56). This is a different type of copolymer compared to the claimed copolymers.

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Respectfully submitted,
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